

Education Town Hall

with special guest Chairman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott

APRIL 28, 2022



Investing in Pre-K and Childcare

- ▶ Children who attend preschool can better socialize, manage stress, solve problems, and have higher job earnings later in life.
 - ▶ Participation in **Head Start increases a student's likelihood of pursuing some higher education** 4-12 percentage points.
- ▶ Families headed by married couples **spend about 10% of household income on child care** while **single-parent families spend about 34%** of their income.
- ▶ **House Education and Labor Committee's Key Priorities:**
 - ▶ ***Child Care for Working Families Act*** – would ensure affordable, high-quality child care for working class families and support universal access to high-quality preschool for 3- and 4-year olds.

Creating Equity in K-12 Education

- ▶ The **U.S. puts 11.6% of public funding toward education**, well below the international standard 15%.
- ▶ **51% of American public school students are living in poverty.**
 - ▶ A student living in poverty is 13 times less likely to graduate on time.
- ▶ 7 million, or 14% of K-12 public school students, receive special education services.
- ▶ **House Education and Labor Committee's Key Priorities:**
 - ▶ ***House-passed Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Spending Package*** – Includes a \$1 billion increase in funding for Title I schools, the largest increase in over a decade.

Expanding Access to Higher Education

- ▶ Outstanding **student loan debt in the U.S. exceeds \$1.3 trillion** with African American college graduates owing \$7,400 more in student loans on average than their white peers upon graduating.
- ▶ **House Education and Labor Committee's Key Priorities:**
 - ▶ **College Affordability Act** – Would lower the cost of college, improve the quality of education by holding schools accountable for students success, and expand opportunity for students of all backgrounds.
 - ▶ **House-passed Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus Spending Package** – Provides significant investments to lower the cost of college, including through the largest increase in the maximum Pell Grant in over a decade.
 - ▶ Also establishes a Postsecondary Student Success Grant program to help students either stay in school or complete their degrees.

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